Claims

1. An effects application system comprising:

   an effects source for applying an effect onto an image and

   a translucent masking tool which defines a masked portion that prevents the

   effects source from applying the effect onto the masked portion of the image.

2. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent

   masking tool has a customizable shape.

3. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent

   masking tool is movable relative to the image.

4. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent

   masking tool simulates a fixed edge.

5. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion

   of the image is denoted by cross-hatching while the masked portion of the image

   is still viewable by a user.

6. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion

   of the image is denoted by shading while the masked portion of the image is still

   viewable by a user.

7. A method of masking comprising:

    positioning a masking tool over a masked portion of an image;

    applying an effect onto the image outside the masked portion; and

    dynamically moving the masking tool while applying the effect wherein the

    masked portion changes as the masking tool is dynamically moved.

8. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising customizing a shape of the

    masking tool.

9. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masking tool is translucent.

10. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is

    viewable to a user.

11. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is

    shaded.

12. The method according to Claim 7 wherein dynamically moving the masking tool

    and applying the effect occur simultaneously.

13. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising applying multiple masking

    tools onto the image.